

considerable impression on the
Commander-in-Chief's
mind. Geddes was then engaged in the
vital task
of putting fresh life into the construction
of ships to
fill up the dark gaps made by the enemy
in our
Mercantile Marine.

Mr. Bonaf Law agreed as to the
desirability of
effecting a change if it could be done
without offend-
ing Sir Edward Carson. We had both a
Carson great personal regard for
Carson and we

^War Cabinet were anxious not to give him
any hurt.
But as he knew that we had always been
of opinion that he would have rendered
greater
service to his country in the War
Cabinet than in
any administrative office, we could
honestly present
to him the case for a transfer from
Admiralty House
to the Council Chamber on that ground.
Never-
theless, although membership of the War
Directorate
was a more exalted and powerful
position, I am
afraid he felt wounded by the change.
To him it
was an unpalatable proposal, however
much we
might wrap it up. But his intense
patriotic sense
prevailed over any personal feeling. So
Carson
joined the War Cabinet and Geddes went
to the
Admiralty. The conduct of the War
benefited by
the double change.

What about Admiral Jellicoe ? Sir Eric
Geddes,
in his acceptance of the position of First
Lord,
stipulated that Jellicoe should not be
immediately
removed. Geddes knew that Jellicoe had
the con-

confidence of the senior officers in the
Navy, and that
it would therefore be a distinct
advantage to secure
his co-operation if that were at all
possible. He
promised to tell me without delay if he
found that
he could not work with or through him.
It was not long before he discovered
that the